

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 /032 W

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R 211546Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9619

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, EEWT, BU, LE, BE

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES EMPLOYEE

REFS: A) STATE 116900; B) SOFIA 0964

1. CHARGE RAISED ISPENTCHIAN CASE MAY 21 WITH FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE LUKANOV. LUKANOV REPLIED WAS A MATTER FOR MFA, BUT WHEN CHARGE REITERATED IMPLICATIONS FOR US BUSINESS AND TRADE RELATIONS, LUKANOV SAID WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER UPON RETURN FROM OFFICIAL TRIP TO ITALY. CHARGE TOLD LUKANOV THAT IN MEANTIME SHE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH MINFOR TRADE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES DEPARTMENT, BASHIKAROV, WITH WHOM EMBOFF HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED CASE.

2. EMBASSY LAWYER FLAVI KAZANDZHIEV HAS AGREED TO HANDLE CASE FOR ABBOTT LABORATORIES. HE HAS DETERMINED ISPENTCHIAN IS STILL BEING HELD UNDER INVESTIGATION WITHOUT CHARGE BEING PLACED AGAINST HIM. BULGARIAN LAW DOES NOT PERMIT KAZANDZHIEV TO SEE ISPENTCHIAN UNTIL CHARGE IS PLACED. PERIOD OF TIME SUSPECT CAN BE HELD WITHOUT CHARGE IS SUBJECT TO EXTENSION BY PROSECUTOR. KAZANDZHIEV LOOKING INTO DETAILS ON THIS. ROBERT J. MAROUSEK, ABBOTT LABORATORIES' REGIONAL COUNSEL FOR EUROPE, HAS BEEN INFORMED BY EMBASSY OF SUBSTANCE THIS PARAGRAPH.

3. BELGIAN COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY REYNKENS WHO WAS INFORMED OF CASE DURING VISIT TO BRUSSELS PHONED EMBASSY FOR LATER
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INFORMATION AND OFFERED HIS ASSISTANCE. WHEN TOLD BY EMBOFF THAT ISPENTCHIAN WAS REPORTEDLY ABOUT TO BECOME

BELGIAN CITIZEN AT TIME OF ARREST, REYNKENS SAID HE
WOULD INVESTIGATE. IF REPORT WAS TRUE WOULD OFFER ADDITIONAL
BASIS FOR BELGIAN EFFORT IN ISPENTCHIAN'S BEHALF.
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